Government schemes, to the farming community through toll free telephone lines throughout the country. The toll free number - 1551 - is regularly publicized during agricultural programmes being broadcast by Doordarshan (DD) and All India Radio (AIR) under the Mass Media Scheme of the DAC.

(iii) State and District level agricultural fairs are supported by the DAC under the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Programme. Such fairs provide an important opportunity for creating awareness on Government schemes and variety of farm related activities.

(iv) Funds are also provided to District ATMAs for creating awareness through leaflets and print media.

(v) 96 FM Stations of All India Radio and 180 High/Low Power Transmitters, 18 Regional Kendra and DD National channel of Doordarshan are broadcasting 30-minute agricultural programmes, including those on Government Schemes and related success stories, five/six days a week. State Level Monitoring Committee headed by Principal Secretary (Agriculture) of the State provides general guidance to DD and AIR on programming and related aspects.

(vi) Financial assistance is also provided to the States under AGRISNET initiative for providing improved services to the farming community through use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Dissemination of information on Government Schemes is an important service listed in most of the approved AGRISNET projects. The Department of IT, Government of India is setting up of 100,000 Common Service Centres (CSC) which would facilitate IT access in the villages.

Bomb blast on Samjhauta Express

*174. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many passengers were killed/injured in the Delhi-Wagah Samjhauta Express explosions and the details of the compensation paid

to the injured and dependents of the deceased;

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the incident; and

(c) if so, the details and findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) 68 (49 Identified and 19 Unidentified) passengers including 03 staff of Railway Protection Force (who were escorting the train) died in the incident of fire in two coaches of Train No. 4001 Up Delhi — Attari Express while running in Diwana — Panipat section over Delhi Division of Northern Railway in the night of 18.02.2007. 12 injured passengers (07 Grievous and 05 Simple) who were initially admitted to Civil Hospital, Panipat were shifted to Safdarjung Hospital/New Delhi for better treatment.

(b) and (c) A statutory inquiry into the incident has been ordered to be conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northern Circle.

Government Railway Police/Panipat has also registered a case *vide* No. 28/2007 dated 19.02.2007 under section 302, 307, 324 & 438 IPC, 150, 151, 152 of the Railways Act, 3, 4 & 6 of Indian Explosives ACT and 3 & 4 of Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act and took up investigation. The cause of fire is suspected to be explosions of incendiary bombs/improvised explosive devices in the coaches.

Measures taken for surveillance of Leprosy

*175. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the finance Minister in his budget speech of 2006-07 had announced that the elimination of leprosy has been achieved in December, 2005; and

(b) if so, the measures that have been taken thereafter to monitor the surveillance of the disease, so far?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Yes, Sir. The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 2006-07 had announced that elimination of leprosy as a public health problem had been achieved in December, 2005.

(b) India has achieved elimination of leprosy as a public health problem *i.e.* Prevalence Rate of the disease is less than 1 per 10,000 population